

JRE PTSA Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 26 – 9AM — JRE Cafeteria

ATTENDEES

Kara Ricotta
Danielle Shannon
Michelle Kostick
Megan Williams
Amy Connell
Nia Silliman
Christina Ficicchia
Bret Burrows
Sheila Greenhill
Lori Leitgeb
Brett Burrows

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER — Co-Chairs
 - Meeting called to order at 9:09 AM
2. ESTABLISH QUORUM — Co-Chairs
 - Quorum established.
 - Would be helpful to have clarification on what a quorum means to conduct business for a committee. JRE PTSA group is technically a committee for the District PTSA, so it's a bit unclear the actual rule.
3. INTRODUCTIONS - Done
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Secretary
 - Sept. 21, 2022 minutes approved.
5. BUILDING UPDATE — Leah is out this week.
6. CO-CHAIR UPDATE — Co-Chairs
 - Kara provided an update.
 - Everything running smoothly and all co-chairs doing great jobs. Last year was a little bumpier but this year smooth so far.
 - Gifts to school example, Best Buddies first meeting was last week. There are about 40 kids and we provided pumpkins for painting. They were much appreciated. K-5 group, lots of interaction with the kids.
7. FINANCIAL REPORT — Treasurer
 - Vote on budget
 - Large balance due to Covid looking to spend down, so spending more in cultural arts and field trips
 - Pond restoration – Quotes received for \$500-1000. Is this considered building and grounds and could they help out? Kim is in the process of getting additional quotes.

- 5th grad transition less in budget this year (\$876 to 750) but this year's class has much fewer kids.
- Danielle made motion to approve the budget. All ayes. 2022/2023 budget is approved.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS — Committee Chairs

- DEI Committee: DEI Committee ordered posters for bullying prevention month (Oct) for JRE. Will be placed up as a good year-round message. Thanks to Dr. Kedley for addressing the topic this past month.
 - We ordered from both companies- one has arrived (National PTA ones I dropped at the office yesterday) and the Pacer ones may be several weeks based on their website. We are going to use DEI committee funding instead bc not all bldgs have that budget line- so you won't see a reimbursement form at the bldg level but we are on the way to set.
- Cultural Arts (Christina): No field trips but last year because of bussing. This year limited bussing. We're in a better position than some districts but still tough; not sure what the teachers plan to do, perhaps Christina can chat with Leah how best to get some of this information (perhaps at regular monthly meeting.) What do teachers typically do and what extra could we do. OK to pass along ideas but teachers usually lead. There are some restrictions on what the money can be used for – performance vs supplies for example. Listing on district page as to what BOCES approves. 11/8 ILT committee has reps and Megan will bring up there. Perhaps by 12/1, give your ideas to Leah and Christina.
- Note: Getting new school buses. Discussion around electric vehicles being required.
- 5th grade transition: Amy reached out to arrowhead Fri, date will be 6/16, limited 9:30-1 for bus schedule. There will be t-shirts, slide show.
- ILT (Megan): First meeting, coming out of Covid, getting things back on track.
- Yearbook (Megan): Looking for volunteers this year from each grade so names can be reviewed etc.
- School pics: Went great, should be coming home now, 17th is makeup day
- Dei – copy from email
- Courtyard: Tons of work done, getting quotes for pond and irrigation system.
- Art Ambassador: Hinda planning to do it as part of STEAM day, stitching into lap blankets, Suffolk puffs.
- Light the loop is Sat! Really in need of outdoor extension cords, each grade has a theme, drive thru, 60 pumpkins registered.
 - i. We're continuing to push for pumpkins, volunteers, and donations/loans, especially of outdoor extension cords. We particularly (as of Tuesday night) need help during the event and for clean up.
 - ii. This year each grade level has a theme. Pumpkins will be displayed by grade level, on tables. Each class has made a foam board and those will be displayed as well. The district will be sending out info for the I Spy game.
- Spirit wear coming in soon!
- Square 1 art: Early Nov (Tiffany Stern K parent coordinating)

- STEAM day: Not much planned yet, Christine will reach out to Marni and Kara to see if they might need any performance based funds.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

10. NEW BUSINESS - None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Daniella and Kara are done after this year. If interested in a co-chair position, let them know. There is a learning curve, time commitment hard to quantify, this year has been a lot less, because they know more. Meet with Leah once a month, the monthly PTSA meetings and when things that come up with questions etc.
- District level updates
 - i. Super sale did well! Exact dollars will come in later but it was much closer to pre-Covid and confident we will hit what was in the district budget.
 - ii. Vote on by laws approved to keep the same as the last 3 years. No more VP. Organizational review ad hoc. 7 member committee to clarify positions, make stepping into a position easier, continue to have their support. Hopefully looking at the organization this year will make next year easier. Also looking for the next district president.
- General discussion re students needing support
 - i. Hard to know who those students are without teachers and those close to students so support is not visible to others.
 - ii. PTSA has funds for kids that can't afford something at an event (ice cream at the ice cream social etc.) or a year book.
 - iii. PDTA (teachers) has a student benefit fund also for this purpose.
 - iv. Bagged lunches - hard to figure out how to go about it.
 - v. Overall, no easy answer, lean on teacher reps and Leah, how can we help them without hurting them.

12. ADJOURNMENT (*by general consent or motion*)

- Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM